THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) A few isolated lumps of black snow only have been observed in Gund and Sonamarg areas of Jammu & Kashmir and Manali region of Himachal Pradesh in March, 1991.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e). Analysis of samples collected from some of the affected areas could not establish any specific cause for this occurrence. This occurrence, being an isolated and one time phenomenon, would not have any adverse effect on climate and ecology of the region.

**Cattle Death in Maharashtra**

6097. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the minister of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the death of a large number of cattle in talukas of Dahanu and Talaseri in Thane district of Maharashtra and in Dadar and Nagar Haveli during the period from January-March, 1991 due to lead contents in different discharges by the industries of that area; and

(b) if so the steps taken/proposed to be taken to investigate the matter and to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTERY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir. there is report of 322 cattle having died due to metal poisoning in talukas of Dahanu and Talaseri.

(b) Following steps have been taken to investigate the matter and to prevent such incidents in future:

(1) M/S Hindustan Alloys Mfg. Co. Ltd., is engaged in the manufacture of Lead. Action to close the unit was initiated by the Additional District Magistrate of the Union Territory, Silvassa, followed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) which ordered closure of the unit under Section 31A of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 1987, on 5.3.91

(2) The Company filed a writ petition in High Court Delhi - No 886/91 dated 30.4.91 - against the closure order passed by the Central Pollution Control Board. The Delhi High Court allowed the industry to start production with effect from 1st May, 1991 on the basis of an undertaking given by the unit that the emissions will be maintained within the prescribed limits and needed pollution control equipment could be installed within a period of six months. Follow up measures have been initiated.

(3) The Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has monitored the air quality in the area on 1st July, 1991 and on 12-13th July, 1991. The Lead and Arsenic content in the ambient air quality has been measured and found to be within the prescribed limits.

(4) The National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad has started studying the effects on human health.

**Setting up of Distance Education Council**

6098. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: